Appln. No.: 09/455,805
Request for Reconsideration dated January 26, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (previously presented): A computer-implemented method of annotating pages of an electronic document independently of the contents of the document, comprising the steps of:

(1) displaying a page of the electronic document on a computer display device using a document browser that permits a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

(2) selecting an annotation mode that permits the user to annotate the currently displayed document page;

(3) annotating parts of the currently displayed page by moving a user input device to indicate where on the currently displayed document page the annotations should appear; and

(4) storing annotations made in step (3) separate from the electronic document.

2 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the step of using opaque markings that obscure portions of the currently displayed document page.

3 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the step of using a translucent highlighting that does not completely obscure the annotated portions of the currently displayed document page.

4 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein step (3) comprises the step of blending pixels from the currently displayed document with a translucent color to produce a translucent annotation.

5 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the step of using an erase highlighting that erases previously annotated areas of the currently displayed document page.

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6 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the step of using a stylus with a tablet computer system.

7 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein step (3) comprises the step of storing a separate stroke for each annotation, wherein each stroke corresponds to a continuous set of movement when the user input device is activated.

8 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(5) moving to a different document page;

(6) retrieving previously stored annotations associated with the different document page; and

(7) displaying the retrieved annotations on the computer display device superimposed over the different document page.

9 (original): The computer-implemented method of claim 8, wherein step (6) comprises the step of detecting a title change event in the document browser and, in response thereto, locating an annotation file corresponding to the different document page.

10 (previously presented): A system for annotating electronic documents independently of the content of the documents comprising:

a computer display device;

a computer programmed with a document browser that permits a user to display an electronic document on the computer display device and to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

a computer input device that permits the user to indicate portions of a currently displayed document page; and

computer software that permits the user to annotate parts of the currently displayed document page according to indicated portions of the currently displayed document, wherein the computer software displays the annotated parts of the currently displayed document page on the

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computer display device and stores annotations made by the user separate from the currently displayed document page.

11 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores opaque annotations that obscure annotated portions of the currently displayed document page.

12 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores translucent highlight annotations that do not completely obscure annotated portions of the currently displayed document page.

13 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software displays and stores erased annotations that remove previously made annotations on the currently displayed document page.

14 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the computer display device comprises a flat panel display, and wherein the computer input device comprises a stylus.

15 (original): The system of claim 10, wherein the computer software retrieves, upon detecting a title change event, previously stored annotations associated with a different document page and displays the previously stored annotations on the different document page.

16 (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

(1) displaying an electronic document page on a computer display device and permitting a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

(2) annotating parts of a currently displayed page in accordance with movement of a user input device to indicate where on the currently displayed document page the annotations should appear; and

(3) storing annotations made in step (2) separate from the electronic document.

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17 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-executable instructions for step (2) further comprise instructions for creating an opaque annotation that obscures annotated portions of the currently displayed document.

18 (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-executable instructions for step (2) further comprise instructions for creating a translucent annotation that does not completely obscure annotated portions of the currently displayed document, wherein the translucent annotation is generated by blending pixels from the currently displayed document with a highlighting pixel color.

19 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-executable instructions for step (2) further comprise instructions for erasing portions of previously created annotations.

20 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein the computer-readable instructions further include steps for:

(4) in response to detecting that the user has moved to a different document page, retrieving previously stored annotations associated with the different document page; and

(5) displaying the annotations retrieved in step (4) on the different document page.

21 (previously presented): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein annotations are stored in a data structure as strokes.

22 (previously presented): The computer-implemented method of claim 21, wherein each stroke includes a stroke width and coordinates indicating a trajectory of the stroke.

23 (previously presented): The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein annotations are stored as a bitmap image.

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24 (previously presented): The system of claim 10, further comprising an annotation mode selection menu.

25 (previously presented): The system of claim 10, wherein annotations are stored in a data structure as strokes.

26 (previously presented): The system of claim 10, wherein annotations are stored as a bitmap image.

27 (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein annotations are stored in a data structure as strokes.

28 (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of claim 16, wherein annotations are stored as a bitmap image.

29 (previously presented): A computer-implemented method of annotating pages of an electronic document independently of the contents of the document, comprising the steps of:

(1) displaying a page of the electronic document on a computer display device using a document browser that permits a user to move forward and backward among a plurality of document pages;

(2) receiving a signal representing a selected annotation mode from an annotation selection menu;

(3) receiving a signal representing an annotation of the currently displayed page;

(4) determining an initial position of the annotation;

(5) determining a width and trajectory of the annotation;

(6) receiving a signal representing that the annotation is complete;

(7) storing the annotation as a stroke in a data structure separate from the electronic document; and

(8) displaying the annotation in an ink layer that is superimposed over and blended with pixels on the document page.